



African American Descendants of Forsyth Scholarship Application Overview 2023-2024

Program Description

In recognition of the injustices done to Black residents of Forsyth County, Georgia, in the 1912 racial expulsion and afterward, we as followers of Jesus would like to honor those expelled from the county by providing college scholarships to some of their descendants.

This is an act of love—doing for a few what we wish we could do for all.

Eligibility Requirements

Students seeking scholarship funding for the 2023–24 academic year, beginning with the fall 2023 term, must:

- GPA - Provide documentation of 2.5 GPA or higher in high school or GED equivalent.
- COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE - Provide documentation of proof of acceptance to an accredited college or university (prior to funds being dispersed).
- DESCENDANT VERIFICATION - Provide documentation of being a direct descendant of an African American family that fled Forsyth County, Georgia, as a result of the violence in 1912.

Acceptable genealogical documentation includes but is not limited to:

- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Licenses
- Death Certificates
- Church Records
- Obituaries
- Census Records

Note: If you believe you are a descendant and need help determining your family tree, we may be able to assist in your search. Please reach out to us and share the information you have, and we will contact you.

· COMPLETE ESSAYS -

- Family Journey Essay - Submit an essay on “Your family’s connection to Forsyth County and your ancestors’ journey in the decades after their expulsion in 1912.” (2,000 words or less) You may focus on any aspect of your family history. This essay is meant to help the community understand it’s full history and for the applicant to learn more about their own family history.
- Career Path Essay - Describe the major and career path you are planning to pursue, why you have chosen it, and how this scholarship will help you reach your career goals. (500 words or less)

- Additional Support Essay - Please describe the supports (i.e. personal, professional, etc...) you have in place to assist you in the successful completion of a college degree. (500 words or less)
- Extracurricular Activities Essay - Please describe pre-college or current college activities that demonstrate your ability to be successful in college (through multi-tasking, perseverance, etc...). (500 words or less)
- FINANCIAL NEED - Provide proof of financial need including your FAFSA form and college financial aid award letter(s).

Application Timeline

- Students seeking scholarship funding for the 2023–24 academic year, beginning with the fall 2023 term, must submit a completed application by April 30, 2023.
- Scholarship funds will be made by June 15, 2023, for the fall 2023 semester.
- Scholarship funds will be sent to the student's college or university account by August 1, 2023.
- NOTE: Applicants who are deemed ineligible for the academic year in which they applied must reapply to receive an evaluation for the next year.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student must:

- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll full-time or part-time at an eligible accredited postsecondary institution in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree.

Scholarship Award Procedure

- Scholarship funds will be sent to the student's college or university account by August 1, 2023.
- The number of scholarships awarded will depend on the amount of funding collected through May 1, 2023.
- The annual scholarship amount may not exceed \$10,000. If tuition or financial need is less than \$10,000, the scholarship amount will not exceed the university expenses for that year.
- Eligible applicants will be ranked and selected by the lowest "expected family contribution" as specified on the FAFSA and by how well each application meets the eligibility requirements. Strong applications will provide clear, detailed responses to the essay, description of career path, description of supports in place, and description of how the applicant's extracurricular activities demonstrate skills that will help them succeed in college.

- These requirements will be reviewed and scored independently by a panel of five reviewers using a rubric-style evaluation matrix. The applications will be ranked in order from highest to lowest score. In the event of a tie, the panel of five will break the tie by majority vote.

Terms of Eligibility

- An undergraduate student is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of eight semesters (12 quarters) or until receipt of a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.
- A student enrolled in a five-year undergraduate degree program is eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters or 12 quarters.
- Unused funding may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.

Student Awards Renewal Process

- A renewal application is not required to renew the scholarship. A recipient is automatically considered for a renewal award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester or third quarter or the equivalent each academic year. Credits earned the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required for renewal.
- Students must have earned a minimum unweighted institutional cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, for which an award was received. If the student earns fewer than 12 hours, the scholarship fund will be prorated.
- Hours earned during the previous summer may be used toward renewal.

Failure to Meet Minimal Renewal Requirements

- A student who met the required hours but earned less than the minimum institutional cumulative 2.5 GPA may be granted a probationary award for no more than two semesters or three quarters or the equivalent.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credit and an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- A student who failed to meet the requirements for renewal during a probationary period will become ineligible for funding. However, the student is eligible to apply for restoration after one academic year. An institutional cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale must be earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year preceding the year the award is sought.